

CLIMATE

The North Carolina Division of Research Stations and the United States Weather Bureau jointly maintain a temperature and rainfall observation station in the southeastern corner of Montgomery County, at the Sandhills Research Station. This observation station is located five miles west-northwest of Jackson Springs and only about ten miles south of Biscoe.

The climate of the Biscoe Planning Area is principally determined by the latitude. It is modified by its location in the interior of an east coast state and by the elevation, approximately 600 feet above sea level. The area is protected from the severity of continental winters by the Appalachian Mountains which run in a northeast-southwest direction across western North Carolina and Virginia. The cold air masses that sweep out of Canada and across the midwestern states are blocked by this mountain system. When they do manage to break over this barrier the cold is somewhat modified before reaching the Biscoe area.

A tabulation of temperature and precipitation averages at the above station over a thirteen year period (1953-1965) reveals the following facts:

Precipitation (including melted snow and sleet) averages 46.65 inches per year. It is fairly well distributed throughout the year. The heaviest amounts fall during June, July and August, generally in the form of afternoon thunder-showers. July has been the wettest month over the thirteen year period, averaging 5.64 inches. November has been the driest month, with an average precipitation of only 2.83 inches. Snows in the area occur only occasionally, about once or twice per winter month (December-February). The average snow depth is about 4.5 inches, with occasional snows of a foot or more in depth. These snows generally remain on the ground for only a short period.

The annual temperature has averaged 60.2 degrees F. over the thirteen year period. The average temperature for January, the coldest month, is 40.4 degrees; and for the warmest month, July, it is 78.2 degrees.